

ON THE GENERIC NAME TO BE APPLIED TO THE *VENUS*
ISLANDICA, LINN.

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A CONSIDERABLE amount of discussion has already taken place concerning the generic name which should be applied to the well-known *Cyprina Islandica*, the *Venus Islandica* of Linnæus, and the latest writer upon the subject, Dr. W. H. Dall,¹ has assigned this shell to the genus "*Cyclas* (Bruguière), Link".

Now Bruguière's plates in the *Encyclopédie Méthodique* (pls. 301, 302) with the word *Cyclas* at the top (he never published a description) do not include a figure of *Cyprina Islandica*, and the figures 1a, 1b, on plate 301, referred to by Dall as representing that species are very good illustrations of some form of the genus *Batissa*.

Dr. Dall's mistake may have arisen from the fact that in the explanation of the plates by Bory de St. Vincent,² the name *Cyprina Islandica*,³ Lamk., is given (erroneously) to the two figures quoted above. But of this I feel certain, that Dr. Dall did not actually see the figures, for he is too good a conchologist to have regarded them as representing the above-named species.

The genera figured on Bruguière's two plates are *Batissa*, *Corbicula*, *Cyrena*, and *Sphærium*, as now generally understood, and perhaps *Astarte*, but not *Cyprina*. Bruguière's genus *Cyclas* has therefore nothing to do with *Cyprina*.

Link, in 1807,⁴ placed the northern shell in "*Cyclus* (Lam.)", it being the only species he mentions. But this name cannot be used, as it had already been employed by Lamarck in 1799⁵ in a different sense for the *Tellina cornea*, Linn., now known as *Sphærium corneum*. The figure in the *Encyclopédie Méth.* (pl. 301, figs. 1a, 1b) upon which Dall based the genus "*Cyclas* (Bruguière), Link", does not, as already observed, represent the *Cyprina Islandica*.⁶ The form of the outline is quite different, and the erosion of the apex and the dentition at once indicate a species of the genus *Batissa*. Observe the crenulated lateral teeth in fig. 1b, a feature non-existent in *Cyprina Islandica*.

¹ Trans. Wagner Free Inst. Sci. Philad., vol. iii, pt. vi, p. 1500, 1903.

² Tabl. Encycl. Méthod. Vers. Moll., etc., p. 156.

³ Also quoted by Lamarck as *Cyclas Islandica*, Ann. Mus. Nat. Hist. Paris, vol. vii, p. 420, 1806.

⁴ Nat. Sammlung, Rostock, 1807, p. 150.

⁵ Mém. Soc. Hist. Nat. Paris, 1799, p. 84.

⁶ All the following authors refer to this figure as representing the shell now known as *Batissa violacea*: Deshayes (Encycl. Méth. Vers., vol. ii, p. 49, 1830) under *Cyrena violacea*, Lamk.; id. (Cat. Conch. Brit. Mus., pt. ii, p. 238) under *Batissa violacea* (Lamk.); Philippi (Conchylien. vol. iii, p. 108) under *Cyrena violacea*, Lamk.; Prime (Amer. Journ. Conch., vol. vii, p. 140) under *Batissa violacea* (Lamk.); Clessin (Conch. Cab., p. 208) under *B. violacea*.

On these two plates Bruguière grouped as *Cyclas* a number of freshwater shells, and even the figure 3 on plate 302, said by some to represent an *Astarte*, would equally answer for a *Corbicula*, and Deshayes¹ observes "elle serait plus probablement du genre *Cyrène*, puisque Bruguière l'a ainsi placée, mais comme elle ne montre pas la charnière, nous conservons du doute".

It now remains to determine what generic name should be applied to the shell in question.

The name *Arctica* of Schumacher (1817) has a year's priority of *Cyprina*, Lamarck, but, as pointed out by various writers, it was preoccupied by Moehring in 1758 for a genus of birds, and therefore is not available. Although *Cyprina*, Lamk., and *Cyprinus*, Linn. (a genus of fishes), are very similar, the derivations according to Agassiz,² Hermannsen,³ Philippi,⁴ Tryon,⁵ Fischer,⁶ Hoyle,⁷ etc., are different. Both therefore can be employed in zoological nomenclature.

The synonymy will therefore stand as follows:—

CYPRINA ISLANDICA (Linn.).

- 1767. *Venus*, Linn., part.
- 1806. *Cyclas*, Lamk., part. (non *Cyclas*, Lamk., 1799 = *Sphærium*, Scopoli, 1777).
- 1807. *Cyclas*, Link. (non *Cyclas*, Lamk., 1799).
- 1817. *Arctica*, Schumacher (non *Arctica*, Moehring, 1758).
- 1818. *Cyprina*, Lamarck.
- 1900. *Cypriniadea*, Rovereto.
- 1903. *Cyclas* (Bruguière), Link, *vide* Dall (non *Cyclas*, Brug., 1798, nec *Cyclas*, Lam., 1799).

¹ Lamarck's Hist. Anim. sans Vert., 2nd ed., vol. vi, p. 275.

² Nomencl. Zool. Moll., p. 28; Vertebrata.

³ Indicis Gen. Malac., vol. i, p. 361.

⁴ Handbuch Conch. und Malac., p. 306.

⁵ Struct. and Syst. Conch., vol. iii, p. 187.

⁶ Man. Conchyl., p. 1070.

⁷ Journ. of Conch., vol. x, p. 361.